



Doubling Down at the Park

# The Beachcomber

Dune Acres, IN

Spring 2009

[www.duneacres.org](http://www.duneacres.org)



## ABOUT TOWN

### Water Polo Anyone?

It has been a very wet two years. Last year, we had what could be called a 200-year rain. This winter we had record snowfall to add to the already water-laden soil. What does this all mean? Well, we are working to find an answer, but all you have to do is drive by the Park and you can see the problem.



Yes, this is a submerged DA Tennis Court!  
(with geese)

Three weeks ago, it came to my attention that the water was not subsiding at the Park or along Lupine. I brought the issue up at the March Town Council meeting and we started working on finding an answer. What we have found out so far is that Dune Creek does not appear to be blocked and the Cowles Bog water level has dropped by a couple of inches. There is a substantial amount of water behind the park and farther south to the bog.

I contacted the Porter County Surveyor, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Duneland Group. The Porter County Surveyor referred us to the DNR because they do not have control over Dune Creek. The DNR informed us that since Ogden Dunes and Beverly Shores are having the same issues, they think it is just a high water table. The Duneland Group walked the area and felt as though the water crested the south ridge of the park and is now trapped.

It was then decided to try to relieve the problem sooner than later. We are pumping the Park and the Soccer Field in an attempt to protect the investment that was made on the south Tennis Courts last fall, and to save the grass on the Soccer Field. If we are able to get Mother Nature's cooperation with evaporation and a drop in the water table, we are hoping this will work.

Rob Carstens and all his toys have made this a lot easier than it would have been. He once again has stepped up to help DA in its time of need. Thank you, Rob. Jeff Swoger has also been a great help. He has called and met with the DNR several times himself. I also would like to thank everyone who stopped by with his or her moral support.

*Mark Hull*



Road Commissioner Mark Hull & Flood Commissioner Carstens to the Rescue

### Your Input Wanted

The Town Council recently amended the Town's dog ordinance to require all dogs to be leashed if not on the owner's property (formerly the ordinance only required dogs to be leashed on the Town beach areas during the annual period of May 1 through October 1 be leashed). The complete Amendment to the ordinance may be read below. Since that action, the Council has heard from several residents who object to the ordinance changes and several who agree with the changes.

We would like to hear residents' views on the ordinance amendment in order to ascertain whether this issue should be revisited at the next Council meeting. It would be very helpful to hear from both those who want the ordinance amendment rescinded and those who would like it to remain in place. This feedback will be helpful to the Council in determining its course going forward. Please respond in writing, either by e-mail, [townclerk@duneacres.org](mailto:townclerk@duneacres.org) or dropping a letter off at the Town Hall. The next Council meeting is Tuesday, April 21.

*Your Town Council*

"The Article II. Dogs. Section 6-19, subsections (c) (1) and (c) (3) shall be amended to read as follows: (1) Allowing their dog to foul any area within the Town of Dune Acres and does not clean it up. (3) Being off the owner's property without a leash at any time. Any language in the ordinance not hereby amended shall remain in full force and effect. Passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Dune Acres, Porter County, Indiana, on this 17th day of March, 2009."

[For your information, the entire Dog Ordinance that was in effect before the amendment can be found at [www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=14035&sid=14](http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=14035&sid=14), and the wording of the amended sections prior to this amendment read as follows: (1) Fouling the Town Park beach areas. (3) Appearing on the Town beach areas during the annual period of May 1 through October 1, not on a leash.]



## The Eppley Institute?

Several DA residents have met with representatives of the Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands over the past several weeks. A division of Indiana University's Department of Recreation and Park Administration, Eppley's stated goal is to combine academic expertise with real-world experience to design practical solutions that work. The Eppley Institute has been hired by the National Park Service. The

lead paragraph from the Eppley letter reads, "When Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established, the boundary of the park was drawn in a manner that retained private homes and land ownership surrounded or partially surrounded by park land. Over the year, the configuration has led to a variety of challenges for private landowners as well as local and federal government. The National Park Service is interested in finding long-term approaches to working with the challenges and seeking methods that will allow us to work with these communities in mutually beneficial ways." Two paragraphs later, "Information collected as a result of these [meetings] will then be used to develop potential short and long term interest-based solutions between the National Park Service and the concerned communities."

First, I didn't know that the Town of Dune Acres had any current "challenges" with the National Park Service. Furthermore, I didn't know we needed the National Park Service to offer us "solutions."

But a little digging in history will show that Dune Acres has had many challenges with the National Park Service as it had tried multiple times to take land from the Town. Mineral Springs Road or 64 acres and eight homes on the west end ring any bells?! Dune Acres has been far more successful than Beverly Shores in fending off the National Park Service. At least, so far.

Pay attention folks. This isn't rocket science. The National Park Service has a history of making multiple aggressive land grabs for Dune Acres land. Representative Visclosky's Marquette Plan publically states its goal is to acquire up to 80% of Indiana's Lakeshore. Washington has no qualms whatsoever about loading the taxpayers with crushing debt to advance the government's unprecedented growth.

When the government shows up, it's not usually doing so to help anyone but itself ... under the guise of "for the public good." The government *is* a business now.

The Ed.

## Dune Acres Spring Cleaning

Please join your neighbors on Saturday, April 25 at 9am for a good old-fashioned Town Cleanup - back by popular demand!! Bring your swim fins and snorkel and help us undo the ravages that winter has done to our beloved Town Park. We'll be painting at the Park, putting away the ice rink liner, and hitting the beaches. Our Town beaches are looking a bit

shabby. We'd like to clean up the remnants of summers gone by - translation: the broken umbrellas and busted chairs that never made it home from the beach. Please help!

*The Park Commissioners*

## Town Business Reports

*Unofficial Town Council, Plan Commission and BZA meeting reports are posted on the DA website soon after the meeting and remain posted until the official and approved minutes are posted. Following are the most pertinent details from these meetings that generally affect the residents as a whole, if not covered elsewhere in The Beachcomber. The Ed.*

## Town Council (Unofficial) Report

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

LIGHTING COMMITTEE - John Grimes reported that he and the committee have looked at changes for lighting at Security Office. Recall that the goal is to illuminate the area around the Security Office with efficient, minimal and responsible (Dark Skies) lighting that will allow license plates to be visible and recordable. Their research on a license plate camera ranged from total dark camera with on-line capability for \$7,000 to a video tape system (similar to what we have now) for \$4,000. Different lighting solutions ranged from estimates of several thousand dollars to upwards of \$8,000.

## OLD BUSINESS

The Restatement of Town Council Election of Officers from the January 2008 meeting was made as required by law. Lou Roberts will continue to preside as President through April at which time Jeffrey Swoger will preside as President from May 2009 - August 2010, followed by John Sullivan from Sept 2010 - Dec 2011.

## NEW BUSINESS

New Plan Commission Appointment. Replacing John Norris whose term has expired is Rich Hawksworth.

New BZA Appointments. Nancy Wilhelm's, Bonnie Thomas' and John Norris' terms have expired. Nancy has agreed to serve again. Henry Studebaker will be the second appointee. The Plan Commission has the duty to fill the third position, which will presumably be done at the next Plan Commission meeting.

There were no Plan Commission Meetings held in January or February

## Town Council Unofficial Report for Tuesday, 2/17/09

The Town Council discussed the liquor liability insurance policy renewal for \$1,700. Since the Town had gone for 84 years without such a policy, is it a necessary expense? Furthermore, complying with the terms of the policy can be onerous for the folks volunteering to host a Town party as well as the volunteer bartenders. All things considered, the policy will be renewed, especially since the Town's attorney strongly recommended having such a policy in light of today's litigious world.

Police Commissioner Cecilia Call commented how very fortunate all of us are that the Town's security system (the Security Officers/lights/cameras) is working so well. At a time when the number of home invasions are escalating nationwide, we have had no problems. Being the modest person that she is, Cecilia declined to accept any accolades herself when, in fact, she's at least equally responsible for our sound security. *With that said, still keep your eyes open; if something looks or seems peculiar, don't hesitate to call the Security Office and report the details.*

## OTHER BUSINESS

DA resident Mark Phelps has donated an older, but functional, truck to the Town.

## Dune Acres Town Council Unofficial Report for Tuesday, March 17, 2009

### REPORTS

ROADS - Commissioner Hull reported that the considerable sand and debris left over on the roads from the winter would be cleaned up in conjunction with clearing out the East Beach parking lot - beach walkway. He plans to have some additional storm sewers installed and existing ones repaired as necessary.

MAINTENANCE - Commissioner Taylor reported that the East Beach parking lot portal potty enclosure was vandalized and needs to be repaired.

DEER - John Sullivan reported that the deer cull is over. Sixty-three deer were taken.

### OLD BUSINESS

The Town Council is waiting for an okay on The Heenan Trail sign. Recall that Mrs. Heenan recently donated the lot at the end of Summit Drive to the Town for the purpose of preserving the long-used hiking trail, a trail that winds down towards the beach, as well as to honor her late husband, Tom Heenan.

DA Vehicle Stickers will be up for renewal soon. A new design, possibly without "Town of Dune Acres" included, is being discussed. The cost will again be \$30, good for four years.

### Plan Commission Unofficial Report for March 9, 2009

Richard Hawksworth joined the Plan Commission as the newest member.

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) replacement for John Norris is Jane Dickey, who will be serving along with Bob Hartmann, Henry Studebaker and Nancy Wilhelm. The BZA meets on an as-needed basis.

Mike Harris presented preliminary plans for the proposed 5 acre, 4-lot subdivision that will be located between 7 Summit and 23 Summit Dr. Davies Rensberger Surveying has done the preliminary engineering. The general discussion involved handling the rainwater runoff from Summit, utility feeds, septic fields, possible driveway accesses from Summit, preserving the structural integrity of Summit Dr. and parkland. The proposed lots will be from roughly 0.5 acre to 1.7 acres. The time frame is loose -- Mr. Harris is in no great rush to start the actual development, but he wants to keep the process at least moving along. In the meantime, both Mr. Harris and the Plan Commission will review the Town ordinances relative to subdivisions. An Excavation Permit has been granted to Mr. Harris for the fill that has been and in the future might be dumped on his property.

Very Late Beaking News: Those of you who are interested in joining the Dune Acres Relay for Life team, please join us for wine, cheese, and information at the home of Bette & John Norris, Sunday, April 5, at 3:00 P.M. The Relay for Life is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

### **Beachcomber Sponsorship**

This issue of *The Beachcomber* is being sponsored by Bob & Mary Stolper for the second time since I've been editing it. Thank you, again! Be sure to read the Stolper's very entertaining story about how they came to live in Dune Acres, on pages 10 - 11.

The Stolper's tax-deductible donation of \$100 supports the printing costs of this newsletter. Leftover funds are used by the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation to enhance and advance all aspects of life in our unique community.

If you wish to sponsor an upcoming issue of *The Beachcomber*, please make your check payable to the DACIFI and send it to Howard Silverman.

### **THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!**

Thank you everyone for your continued comments, suggestions and support for *The Beachcomber*. But, again, it's *your* contributions that are the essence of *The Beachcomber*. Thanks especially to the following folks who made the Winter issue possible: Mark Bapst, Cathy Bomberger, Irv Call, Rob Carstens, Mary Ann Crayton, Rick Demkovich, Cheryl Evans, Michael & Darlene Lapinski, Barbara Plampin, Lou Roberts, Tom Roberts, Howard Silverman, Sharon Snyder, Alex Stemer, John Sullivan, Linda Swoger and Jeffrey Swoger.

### **BEYOND THE BORDERS**

#### **Taxed Enough Already (TEA) Party**

Fed up with a Congress and a president who:

- voted for a \$500 billion tax bill without even reading it?
- are spending trillions of borrowed dollars, leaving a debt our great-grandchildren will be paying?
- give special interest groups billions of dollars in earmarks to help get themselves re-elected?
- keep using your money to prop up "zombie" companies that should go bankrupt?
- punish those who practice responsible financial behavior and reward those who don't?
- admit to using the financial hurt of millions as an opportunity to push their political agenda?



- run up trillions of dollars of debt and then sell that debt to countries such as China?
- want government controlled health care?
- refuse to stop the flow of millions of illegal immigrants into our country?
- want to reduce your tax deductibility for charitable gifts?
- take money from your family budget to pay for their federal budget.

If so, participate in the TEA party rally. Wed, April 15, 4pm, Valpo Courthouse Square. Tea Party Day is for people who are fed up with inefficient and bloated government, greedy Wall Street tycoons, and incompetent corporate executives. Enough is enough! America is OUR country, and we want it BACK!  
[www.nwiteaparty.com/](http://www.nwiteaparty.com/) The Ed.

### National Lakeshore Deer Cull!

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IDNL) - not to be confused with the Indiana Dunes State Park -- finally acknowledged there is, in fact, an overpopulation of deer, harming both the deer population and the eco system... as well as other local inhabitants and vehicles. The Indiana Dunes State Park has been conducting annual deer culls for some time, as has DA and other local municipalities. The IDNL has prepared a 109-page report outlining the problem and offering four solutions. This report, Deer Management Plan/Environment Impact Study (DMP/EIS), may be accessed via <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Be sure to read the comments on the astronomical cost of the federal deer cull versus a private deer cull in the OP-ED section on page 19.

The Ed.

## THE SOCIAL SCENE

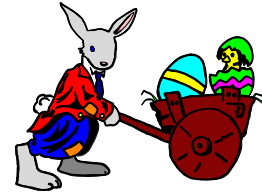
### Sure Cure for Cabin Fever

On Friday, April 3, the Clubhouse will open for an informal gathering from 7:30pm to 11pm for the last one of the season. Join us by a warm fire for lots of cool conversation and neighborly spirit. The perfect antidote to the current times. It's informal, friendly and fun. Bring your own treats, drinks and stories. Games are welcome too. Come as you are, drop in any time, leave when you want. If you have any questions about the event, or are willing to help with set up or clean up, please contact me, Jeffrey Swoger, at 787-5156.

*Jeffrey Swoger*

### Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 11 at 11am at the Clubhouse. Enjoy baked goods, hot coffee & juice, candy & prizes. Egg hunters (ages toddler to 10) don't forget to bring your Easter baskets! Bunny helpers (ages 10+) please join us at 10am to hide the eggs. Donations are appreciated. See you there!



### Social Events Calendar Due Out Soon!

Watch your mailboxes for the updated DA Social Events Calendar -- the 60<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary edition! The calendar will be out soon and will list the various DA events, Chair(s) and Committee Members. Please remember, "Ask not what DA can do for you but what you can do for DA!!!" Strap in and get ready to have one of the best years ever in Dune Acres!

*Linda Swoger*

### The Spring Party

#### Is Coming Up Green

Eco-green that is! Mark your calendar now for the 2009 Spring Party at the Clubhouse, Saturday, May 30, 5:30-7:30pm. NOTE that this is one weekend *after* Memorial Day weekend! More details to follow from Chairs Cathy Bomberger and Sue Smith.

Additionally, please contact me by e-mail at [cathybomb@aol.com](mailto:cathybomb@aol.com) or Sue by phone (787-8437) about your unique property restoration project(s). We want your personal stories so that we can start a file and give you recognition for your efforts.

*Cathy Bomberger*

### A Farewell to Winter Party

#### for Dune Acres Neighbors and Friends

was held on Sunday afternoon, March 29 at the Venue by Bistro 157 in Valparaiso.

Fifty-two DA neighbors and friends enjoyed fine camaraderie and a wide assortment of pleasing appetizers such as Bistro Hot Smoked Salmon served on a Bed of Greens with Dilled Crème Fraiche and Honey Mustard Sauces, Brioche Toast Points and

Crackers, Antipasti Platter with Basil Marinated Mozzarella and Tomato Caprese Skewers with Balsamic Dipping, Marinated Vegetables, Miniature Pure Lump Crab Cakes served with Caper Remoulade Sauce ... to name just a few of the many delectable culinary delights. As if that wasn't enough for the most robust of eaters, Chocolate Ganache Truffles and Lemon Bars were also served.

A driving, wet snow was falling heavily as the party started. The brilliant Spring sun was poking through in spots as the party ended. Indeed, a Farewell to Winter Party!

*The Ed. w/ Bette Norris*

## ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

### 2009 Spring Town Cleanup

The Town Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 9am to Noon. Please come to Town Hall for assignments to help tidy the grounds of the Town after a long, hard winter. We want the Town to look beautiful for summer.

We will be clearing brush and branches and pulling Garlic Mustard. If you need help bringing your debris to the Town Hall, call Dick Taylor, 787-1780, so the truck can come to pick it up. Able is once again -- free of charge! -- providing a roll out (dumpster), delivering it on Friday, April 24, and picking up on Monday, April 27. Brush and branches can be brought to the dumpster. Please, *no leaves* are to be put into the dumpster. Leaves may be delivered to the area behind the Security Office or to the park area on the southwest side of West Road, before Hill Drive.

We depend on all residents to care for their own property. Garlic Mustard should be put into plastic bags and brought to the dumpster. Please call Sue Smith, 787-8437, if you want help identifying your Garlic Mustard.

Thank you very much for your participation on Saturday, April 25. Coffee and snacks will be provided. We have a good time working together with pleasing results!

*Cathy Bomberger*

### Beach Clean Up!

*This excerpted article is a follow up to the article, The Lake Shore Clean Up, that appeared in the Winter 2009 Beachcomber.*

"Ninety-nine red balloons floated in the summer sky, causing a red alert," according to the 1983 song. Now 1,320 popped balloons are setting off red alerts with beach cleanup

volunteers. They found the balloons littering 18 Indiana beaches last year. "It's anybody's guess how long they'd been there and anybody's guess where they're coming from," said Frances Canonizado, outreach coordinator for the Alliance for the Great Lakes, which organized the beach cleanups.

"At the Alliance, we identified two problems: They're ingestible for wildlife or children at the beach. Second, it's an entanglement issue because where there's a balloon, there's often a string," she said.

NIPSCO is also concerned about balloons. The company warned in a news release Wednesday that the helium-filled metallic balloons often used for Valentine's Day can drift into overhead power lines and get tangled up, causing power outages to an entire neighborhood.

Balloons ranked No. 6 on the list of most retrieved items on Indiana beaches in 2008. Cigarette butts were the top item followed by caps-lids, straws-stirrers, food wrappers-containers, cigar tips, cups-eating utensils, glass beverage bottles, plastic beverage bottles and beverage cans. And, of course, the full-sized refrigerator that the DA cleanup team pulled off the beach.

The September 20, 2008 beach cleanup yielded nearly 7,000 pounds of garbage across Indiana beaches. That's nearly four times more than in the year before, but much of the litter was a result of the flooding the week before the cleanup, Canonizado said.

"If there's one thing you can do to protect the Great Lakes, it's to pick up after yourself," she said. "It's so easy and goes such a long way."

*Excerpted, Gitte Laasby, Post-Trib 2/12/09*

*We have a narrow beachfront but on one warm Sunday in March we picked up nearly a full 30-gallon trash bag full of washed up beach debris -- mostly plastic and nylon debris. In our four Springs of being here, this is by far the worse we've ever seen after a winter season. So get out and pick up some beach trash. Heck, every day should be a Lake Shore Clean Up! It's good for the body and soul. And the beach. The Ed.*

### Environmental Committee Report for March 28, 2009

Come discuss and learn why some of the trees lining our roads are sprouting red dots and what do they mean?

Environmental Workshop:  
Red Dot Tree Management  
Saturday, April 18, 10am, Town Hall  
*Cathy Bomberger*

- Indiana FM 105 & Laura Waluszko

For more information, please call 219-465-3694 or  
visit the website: [www.ItMeansTheWorld.com](http://www.ItMeansTheWorld.com)  
*Cathy Bomberger*

## Earth Day - FREE!

Sunset Hill Farm County Park, Valparaiso  
(Located at the Corner of Meridian & US 6)  
Saturday, April 18, 10am - 3pm

Meet Glen the Garbologist, Red Wiggler Worm and  
Life-Long Recycler!

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Free Tree Saplings for Completed Survey
- Eco-Friendly & Educational Exhibits
- Cell Phone, Ink Jet Cartridges and Household Battery Recycling
- Live Entertainment by Eric Lambert & Planetary Blues Band
- Family Tent with Games, Crafts and Magic of Recycling Show
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle Displays
- Secure Shred Confidential Paper Recycling

## Recycling and Waste Reduction

[www.itmeanstheworld.org](http://www.itmeanstheworld.org), is now open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The full season will start on April 13 with the following hours: M - F, 9:00 – 5:00 and Saturday, 9:00 – 4:00. The Valparaiso composting site is at 2150 West Lincolnway. This is one mile west of the Lincolnway/Joliet Road intersection, on the north side of the road.

The District doesn't own a compost site north of Valparaiso. They are actively trying to find partners to donate at least ten acres of land for a long-term to develop a composting site to serve the north end of Porter County.

*Cathy Bomberger*

## Porter County Recycling & Compost Information

### Event Date(s) Time Location

Household Hazardous Waste, Tire Collection and Appliance Collection

May 16      9:00 am to 2:00 pm Expo Fair Grounds      49 & Division, Valparaiso

Household Hazardous Waste

July 11      9:00 am to 2:00 pm Westchester Inter. School      1050 S 5<sup>th</sup> St, Chesterton

Household Hazardous Waste

August 15      9:00 am to 2:00 pm Portage High School      6400 E. US 6, Portage

Household Hazardous Waste

October 10      9:00 am to 2:00 pm Expo Fair Grounds      49 & Division, Valparaiso

### Compost Sites

Boone Grove	Valparaiso
400 West 550 South	2150 Lincolnway
Mon/Wed/Fri = 12:00 to 5:00	OFF SEASON (before April 13): Sat = 9:00 to 2:00
Sat = 9:00 to 4:00	REGULAR SEASON: Mon – Fri = 9:00 to 5:00; Sat = 9:00 to 4:00

Closed:	May 23 - 25	Memorial Day
	July 3 - 4	Independence Day
	Sept 5 - 7	Labor Day
	Nov 26 – 28	Thanksgiving
	Dec 5	End of season

## BIOBLITZ:

### Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The Indiana Dunes BioBlitz



will be the third in a series of 10 annual National Geographic/ National Park Service BioBlitzes leading up to the centennial of the

National Park Service in 2016.

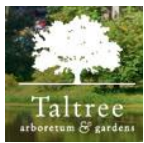
Your help is needed, too. At this year's BioBlitz in California over 6,000 students, teachers and volunteers came out to help count plants and animals and to be part of a fun-filled day. Neighbors, scout groups, schools, churches, clubs, after-school programs and interested citizens are being called on to lend a hand and learn about the amazing organisms that live along the southern shores of Lake Michigan at the Indiana Dunes.

For 24 hours everything that lives – from fungi to fiddlehead ferns; from deer to moles; from chickadees to hawks, from butterflies to ... you get the picture. The National Park Service can better care for its resources by knowing how many and what kind of plants and animals live here and then do a better job of protecting them.

Register for the free event at the National Geographic website [www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz). If you send an e-mail to [bioblitz@ngs.org](mailto:bioblitz@ngs.org), you will be notified when registration is open. Also, you can contact the National Lakeshore at 219-395-8914 for more information. THANK YOU.

*Cathy Bomberger*

### Taltree Arboretum & Gardens



I would like to remind all of you about Taltree Arboretum and Gardens, where woody plant collections, gardens, and natural areas are established and maintained for the benefit of the people in the South Lake Michigan Region. I encourage all of you to visit their website, [www.taltree.org/](http://www.taltree.org/), for a comprehensive listing of upcoming classes, events and concerts.

*Cathy Bomberger*

## RESIDENT NEWS

**Chuck & Mary Chuman** were featured in the Donor Profile in the Spring 2009 issue of Heinze Sights, the newsletter of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust. **Barbara Plampin**, a former

Shirely Heinze board member, was recognized for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday last December.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Surf's Up! Pay Attention!

Every year about a dozen folks drown along the Indiana shores of Lake Michigan, usually when the waves are rockin' and rollin'. It's all fun and games until someone drowns. The bottom line is that your life and the life of the folks for whom you're responsible (guests, children, non-swimmers) is your responsibility.

From the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore website: "Use caution when swimming in Lake Michigan. The bottom is uneven with holes and deep drop-offs. These inshore holes are very dangerous to small children and non-swimmers; parents and guardians must keep a constant watch. Stay out of the water when there are high, breaking waves and rip currents. Don't get pulled under the water by a forceful, unexpected rip current. Even a strong swimmer can drown! Rip currents are caused by a sudden break in an offshore sandbar that releases water rapidly back into the lake. Rip current conditions often occur when the wind is out of the north. These dangerous currents can also occur in waters adjacent to seawalls, artificial reefs, and erosion control structures; stay clear of these areas. Obey posted and verbal rip current warnings."

When the waves are up, everyone wants to head into the water to play! And why not, it's fun! But I also mandate that *every one* (of all ages) going in the lake wear a PFD (Personal Flotation Device), formerly known as a "life preserver." When a know-it-all-teenager scoffs at the idea and claims he'll be okay, I agree that he will, indeed, be okay... building a sandcastle on the beach while his friends go in the water. My house, my rules. One of my top goals is to have no one drown on my watch! Drowning can happen in the blink of an eye, starting with a mouthful of wayward water, even for the best of swimmers. Don't let it happen to you, your family or your guests.

The Ed.

### Caution: Washed Up Boards that Bite

At the west end, we've picked up no less than 15 pieces of the washed up pieces of wood with nails sticking out. The nails often are



sticking out an inch or more. Usually, but not in 100% of the cases, the carrier is a board from a broken dock or pier. Stepping on a rusty nail would just ruin your day. Flip-flops or even tennis shoes would provide some but not compete puncture protection. For whatever reasons, we've found more nail-studded wood this year than the previous four years combined. So be on the outlook for the rogue boards and remove them completely from the beach, please.

The Ed.

## Mosquitoes

Even though the standing water in the Park has dropped, there is still a *lot* of other standing water throughout the wooded areas in Town. You should probably brace yourself for a bumper crop of mosquitoes this year. While the chance of contracting West Nile Virus from a mosquito bite is slim, the chances of being irritated by the winged beasts are a certainty. This may be a great time to add that screened-in porch about which you've been talking. Or at least buy a good supply of mosquito repellents! Some tips:

- avoid being outdoors during prime mosquito periods from dusk to dawn
- apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus to clothes and exposed skin
- wear shoes and socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts light in color and made of tightly woven fabrics

The Ed.

## Ticks

Our kitties have already brought ticks into the house this year. Ticks are back and they're hungry for your blood. While you're not likely to get Lyme disease, why take a chance? Plus picking the little bastards off isn't that much fun. Some tips:

- Remember that ticks are as readily found on the beach Marram grass as in the woods
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and tuck your pants into your socks
- Wear light-colored clothing to enable you to see any ticks easier
- Use approved tick repellents on clothing and exposed skin
- Undress and check for ticks after you go back indoors

- Carefully inspect any gear you were carrying
- Carefully inspect your pets after they've been outdoors
- When ticks are removed within 36 - 48 hours, the disease rarely has had time to be transmitted

If you don't like the idea of digging in and yanking a tick out of your skin (taking care get its head, too) or maybe the tick is on your back where you can't get a good grip, try applying a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Then cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball for about 30 seconds. The tick should release on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift the cotton ball away. If this doesn't work, you can always yank it out with tweezers, a tick remover or your finger nails if they're long enough.

The Ed.

## Shirley Heinze 2009 Hike Program

The following hikes are \$40/person. Sign up is required at least 10 days prior to the hike -- sooner is better as group sizes are limited. Questions? Call 219-879-4725 or e-mail [land@heinzetrust.org](mailto:land@heinzetrust.org).

April 25	Bendix Woods	New Carlisle
May 23	Wetland Restoration	Cowles Bog
Aug 22	Nocturnal Insects	Ambler Flatwoods
Aug 29	Mushrooms	Cowles Bog
Sept 12	Conrad Savanna	Newton County

The following are FREE hikes:

July 25	Green Heron Pond	Miller
Oct 3	Spangler Fen	Hobart

## Doing Your Part

The Town Council has been considering an ordinance that deals with disturbances caused by excessive noise. Neighbor to neighbor complaints to the Council on various issues are becoming more frequent. Surely, the incidents in question are out of character in our community.

Dune Acres is, as we all know, a very unique place to live. It is built on the idea that we all respect our fellow residents and their right to enjoy their time here without undue interference from neighbors or Town government. It's a very idealistic approach to be sure, but one that is at the heart of Dune Acres -- relying on each resident to respect

their neighbor and their community. This respect has to be the basis of our life together here if Dune Acres is to remain the place we all cherish.

Good citizenship is the key. It should involve following the rules on the beach, partying responsibly, keeping your property attractive, driving with care on our roads and keeping our town free of litter. Everyone should enjoy their time in Dune Acres, but never at the expense of others. We ask all of our neighbors to do their part to keep our community a peaceful, beautiful place for all to enjoy.

## Burn Notice

The National Park Service is burning 854 acres of land through April 30. Of those, 400 acres will be land directly south and west of Dune Acres. The exact dates will be determined based on prevailing weather conditions although the at least some of the burn near DA has started.

The Park Service recommends:

- When driving, be aware of the presence of fire personnel, equipment and smoke. Turn your headlights on in smoky areas.
- If you have a respiratory ailment, please take care to limit smoke exposure
- If you are in the path of drifting smoke or ash, close windows, doors and postpone outdoor activities as necessary.

For more information: [www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/ firemanagement.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm)

## Keep Thinking

About a monthly on-line only *Beachcomber*. Sooner or later. It's coming.

## LOCAL COLOR, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Just a Little Bit of History

by Mary Stolper

My husband, Bob, and I have been residents of Dune Acres since August of 1987. We love our house on Beach Drive and have been very happy to be part of the Dune Acres

community. Here's the story of how we came to live here.

As kids, we both had been frequenting the dunes for years, coming to the dunes with our families. Bob's parents, along with several other families, used to camp in the campgrounds at the Indiana State Park. My uncle, Renard Koehnemann, lived just north of Route 12 on Waverly Road. I remember walking to Johnson's Beach and eating burgers at that old white hotel. (Johnson's Beach was between Porter Beach and the State Park.) But we didn't meet until York Community High School in Elmhurst, Illinois.

We knew of DA's uniqueness courtesy of a very close family friend, Mr. Walter Placko, who lived on West Road. I still remember watching many sunsets from the roof of his house. He also had one of the first lifts in DA, and as kids, we loved riding up and down in it in order not to climb the more than 80 steps up to his front door. Bob and I had also visited Dune Acres many times in our high school and college-dating years.

In the mid 80's we started looking in the dunes area to buy or possibly to build a second home. My Uncle Renard, a realtor, called to tell us that a house in Dune Acres was up for sale. It was an older log home built in the late 1920's by Alden Studebaker. (Arthur and Henry helped!)



"Then"

The log home, then owned by the McMean Family, had been vacant for about two years and had been for sale for well over a year. Since the lake level was at an all time high (1986), about three feet higher than it is now, buyers weren't lining up. So the house was put up for auction in August 1987. We drove over during an open house in July and took a walk through the house for all of about 15 minutes. A couple of weeks later Bob thought it would be

fun to go to the auction. So we went, really on a lark. In fact, we didn't even have the required \$10,000 certified check that would allow us to bid. But it was to be a fateful day for us. The auctioneer fully expected upwards of 200 bidders. When we arrived, there were five bidders with only one more bidder to show up. Keep in mind that the house was not in the best of shape and, more importantly, Lake Michigan was threatening to claim it. Buying the house was not without considerable downside risk and upside cost. Under the meager circumstances, the auctioneer decided we could bid if we wanted to. Obviously, we ended up with the winning bid but not without first getting into a bidding war and having many moments of angst. We officially closed on the house in September.

But all's well that ends well. At least eventually. We were much younger then, and during the brief walk through had not noticed little details such as that there was *no* electricity in the bathrooms, *no* heat in the upstairs, and... a good two inches deep of dead crickets in the old Westinghouse top loading dishwasher. Everything that typically lived outside was living inside that house! We had a devil of a time getting them all to move back out. We had definitely bought an adventure, besides a beautiful log home on Lake Michigan.



"Now"

The McMean's had been the longest owners of the house, purchasing it in the early 1950's. We are the fourth owner of this property and hope to surpass McMean's record.

The home was built by Colonel E. L. Morgan in 1927 who gave it to his daughter, Eleanor, as a wedding present. It was named "The Honeymoon Cottage." The Cottage is now a fully functional, year-round house... complete with electricity, heat and no critters living indoors except for Boomer and Lucky, our two

pups. We couldn't be happier with our slice of life on the water. Bob and I celebrate our 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year, so it's still a honeymoon cottage to us!



The Honeymooners!

## Henry Studebaker Grows Up in Dune Acres by Barbara Plampin

*Once upon a time, Dune Acres had no deer, the*



*dunes were bare, Beach Dr. connected to Ridge Dr., and the Town had street-lights, a marina, a nine-hole golf course, and a cement block factory. Entering and leaving Town was "awful"*

*after a spring thaw because Mineral Springs Road was mucky. A security officer nicknamed "County Mountie" was believed to have shot out a tire of a recalcitrant would-be entrant's cars! The Town rejected a statue of the Madonna which, when lit up at night, would have been visible from Chicago. These are among the fascinating details about Dune Acres' history furnished by Henry Studebaker during his talk, "Growing Up in Dune Acres," at the January 31, 2009 meeting of Aging in Place at the Town Hall.*



Henry Studebaker is the uncle of Heidi Sullivan. His family is related to the Studebakers who made the cars.

The Studebaker family is closely entwined with the founding of Dune Acres in 1922 by William Wirt, an uncle of Henry's father, Alden Studebaker, and a nationally famous educator from Gary. Alden initially lived on the first floor of the Clubhouse. Mr. Wirt hired Minnie Chellberg (of the nearby Chellberg Farm fame) to cook for gala occasions. Minnie's daughter, Naomi, married Alden and, in 1927, Henry became the first person born in Dune Acres. Younger brother, Arthur, followed two years later in 1929.

Alden built 40 houses in Town using logs shipped from Oregon and hauled into Town by a team of horses, and at least two sizes of cement blocks made in the Studebaker cement block factory. As youngsters, Henry and Arthur helped their father with several of the houses, to one degree or another. At age five, Henry placed a brick on the chimney of what is now the Bomberger's house on Circle. Some of these houses may be seen today on Circle Drive, then nicknamed "Gasoline Alley" or "Standard Oil Row" because their inhabitants worked at the then Standard Oil Refinery in Whiting. The Stolper's log house on Beach Drive and the Myers' log house on East Road are other examples of Alden's handiwork. Studebaker cement blocks were also used to build a local bowling alley and a school in Hebron, Indiana.

Over time, there were three different locations for the cement block factory, the last one being south of the Nixon's off East Road. Sand and gravel for the cement blocks came from the beach and 94-pound bags of cement arrived by rail. Two movable rails, used to move the sand, cement and other building materials, can still be found behind the Plampin house on East Rd. Initially, the blocks were handmade by Gus Anderson at the rate of 100 per day; after 1937, when machinery was introduced, output increased to 1,000 blocks per day. South of the Nixon's are the remnants of a damaged sorghum cooker made from these blocks. (Sorghum, like sugarcane, produces a syrup, rather like molasses.)

Henry's mother showed Henry and Arthur where pink lady's slipper orchids grew, and Henry and his friends played baseball in the blowout east of Ridge Drive. Dune Acres was much smaller then. Henry's boyhood Chicago Tribune delivery route consisted of only six customers but rose to 40 in the summer. His father drove him to school in

Chesterton but after school, the school bus set him down at the Chellberg Farm, home of his maternal grandparents, so he could milk the cows before walking home. Henry went first to the University of Chicago and later, after a second tour of duty with the Navy during the Korean War, to Purdue where he earned a BS in mechanical engineering. When Henry worked for Standard Oil in Whiting, he, too, became a resident of Standard Oil Row. Later he earned a MBA from the University of Chicago and then moved to Hawaii to help at the Bishop Museum, newly founded by another DA resident, Dr. Force. From 1960 - 1964, Henry served as the Clerk-Treasurer for DA.

Henry recalled famous inhabitants of Dune Acres such as Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, Daniel Boorstin, an American historian and the 12<sup>th</sup> Librarian of the U.S. Congress, and airman Jack Knight. Besides building the last log house in Town on Circle Drive, Mr. Knight would buzz the entire Town with a DC-3, just after this plane was built in the late 30's.

In the course of time, Dune Acres grew and the houses became "more prestigious." Deer arrived, perhaps courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, trees covered the dunes, wave action separated Beach and Ridge Drives, the Depression turned off the streetlights -- the Town had no money to pay the utility bill, 42 railroad carloads of #2 stone "firmed" up the Mineral Springs causeway, a law was passed prohibiting removing sand from the beach, and the cement block enterprise perished in the 1949 fire.

This fire started south of the tracks and took out a house on Crest Drive belonging to the Firtch family. At first, Mrs. Firtch wouldn't leave because her hair was up (in curlers)!

For more particulars about the founding of Dune Acres and the Studebaker family history, consult the Historical Commission, Mary Ann Tittle, Chair.

For information about Aging in Place, an organization that helps older residents remain in their homes instead of having to move to a retirement village, please contact Grace Millman.

## We the People

While talking with the Bamberger's at a recent Sure Cure, I learned that they are not the only DA folks that have helped with We The People through the years. You'll recall that We the People endeavors to promote civic competence and responsibility among the

nation's elementary and secondary students. From Pete Bomberger, "the other DA people who have helped at the district hearings include Tom & Carol Cornwell, Jane Dickey, Clarice Gourley, Bob Hartmann, Charles & Joan Hayes, Jerry & Anne Murphy, Bette Norris, and Joan Rearick. Cathy has been the Indiana Congressional District 1 Coordinator since 1996. By my best estimate, she has had over 300 classes with over 7,000 students use the program since then. As you know, students in the program pass on the good news to their siblings, parents and grandparents. Now if we could only get some Porter County schools involved."

*The Ed. w/ Pete Bomberger*

### Dune Acres Artists Recently on Display

A record number of people attended the opening reception for "Natural Inspiration: Current Artists in the Indiana Dunes" at the Chesterton Art Center. Over 200 people viewed the works of 21 current Duneland artists on a snowy Saturday, February 21, 2009. Dune Acres' Mary Chuman and Mike Culhane welcomed area residents and guests from as far away as Chicago, South Bend, Plymouth, and Bloomington.

One of the highlights of the exhibit was the mural by local artist Wayne Sydni, which brought rave reviews from visitors. The massive nine foot by seven foot mural, commissioned by Mary Chuman to honor the 85th anniversary of Dune Acres, depicts historical events, local personages, and the natural beauty of the dunes. [See the article that follows. The Ed.]



The large turnout excited and invigorated the artists in attendance. Dune Acres resident Ivan Chermel's 250 lb. stone sculpture was the talk of the day. The "please touch" piece of work was irresistible. No one could pass it without reaching out to give his sculpture a feel.

Other exhibiting Dune Acres artists included Maria Ambrozaitis, Susan Chastain (Grimm), Marsha Demkovich, and George Smith.

Mary Chuman adds, "Thanks for all your support. Gallery attendance continues to be high with strong interest in the Dune Acres mural and figures from our past. Several more pieces of artwork have sold; the artists are very happy!"

The exhibit ran through March 31.  
*Excerpted, Chesterton Tribune, 2/18/2009*

The following photos were submitted by Mary Chuman.



Ivan Chermel is standing to the right of his works in pastel and his copper bust sculpture



Susan Chastain (Grimm) wearing one of her beautiful jewelry pieces along with Natalie Chermel



Marsha Demkovich's beautiful silk works



Dune Acres Mural  
Commemorating the Town's 85th Anniversary  
September 15, 1923 – September 15, 2008

Artist: Wayne Sydni; Commissioned by: Mary Chuman



Components of the mural ...

Frank V Dudley (1868-1957), eminent dunes and landscape painter, friend of the Indiana dunes, instructor at D.A. Clubhouse classes given by Friends of Our Native Landscape

Maida Dudley (1882-1973), masque performer, lyric singer and dunes promoter, Prairie Club member along with husband Frank

Dancing Women, 1917 Pageant in the Dunes, a signal event that raised the national consciousness to save the dunes; outdoor interpretive dances and historical pageants were performed by Prairie Club members and others to celebrate and save the Indiana dunes (1913-1917)

Books: "At the Shores," Thomas Rogers (1980); "Hour of the Bell", Harry Mark Petrakis (1984); "The Green Hat", Michael Arlen (1924); "Pilot Jack Knight (American Adventure Series)", A.M. Anderson (1950); "The Americans", Daniel Boorstin (1973); "The Coming of the Civil War", Avery Craven (1942)

William Richardson, industrial chemist; photographer of dunes landscape, birds and flora; ornithologist and naturalist

Flora Richardson, naturalist; established Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary in Dune Acres in 1958 with library, photo archives and educational materials

Paul H Douglas (1892-1976), U.S. Senator from Illinois, University of Chicago economist, political reformer, sponsor for creating an

Indiana dunes national park, preeminent Dune Acres resident and supporter of the D.A. residential community

Prof. Henry C Cowles (1869-1939), University of Chicago botanist, geographer, expert on the dunes and one of the early founders of the science of ecology, public educator and activist for the creation of a national sand dunes park; Cowles Bog is named in his honor

William A Wirt (1874-1938), innovative educator, Superintendent of Gary Public Schools, President of National Bank of America, granted lease to acreage in 1922 which becomes incorporated as the Town of Dune Acres on Sept. 15th, 1923; one of the four original incorporators of Dune Acres (others were: A.P. Melton, Harry Hall, C.R. Kuss, C.V. Ridgely)

Colonel Arthur P. Melton (1875-1932), major military engineer in WWI, civil engineer, first city planner for the City of Gary, Indiana Highway Commissioner, engineer for Melton Highway (Hwy 20), one of the founders of Industrial Town Planners & Organizers; original town planner for Dune Acres and its first mayor and chief of police

Lois Howes, In the 1940's, Dune Acres resident who began studies on prairie wild flowers, trees and the effects of wild fire on the dunes; Howes Prairie is named in her honor (185 acres of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore park land that adjoins Dune Acres)

South Shore Railroad began transporting passengers along the lakeshore from Chicago to South Bend in 1908

Club House, completed in 1926, was originally the dining hall and activity center for visitors and guests at the Harbor View Inn; it continues to be a center for Dune Acres social activities

Harbor View Inn, guesthouse from 1926 to 1949

Lady Slipper Orchids are native to the wetlands of NW Indiana (genus: *Cypripedium*)

Volunteer firefighters, residents of D.A., used backpack pumps with spray nozzles, flappers and fire rakes to smother flames in grass and combat fires (1923 - circa 1980)

James H "Jack" Knight, famous aviator; pilot and instructor for U.S. Army Mail Service; famous U.S. Postal Service airmail relay flight from Cleveland to Chicago in 1921 which established permanent airmail in the U.S.; Jack's famous 'night flight' commemorated in Hollywood film "Men with Wings" (1938) and in Aviation Hall of Fame

Wedding party: Naomi Chellberg & Alden K Studebaker (1926). A wedding reception with 150 guests was held at the Dune Acres Clubhouse. Immediately after congratulations, the bridal couple departed for their honeymoon in an Oldsmobile sedan

### Loons? (the bird!)

If you were sitting outside on Sunday afternoon, March 22 enjoying the second day of spring, you may have heard what sounded like the mournful wail of a loon. Don't worry. You're not crazy. You likely did hear a loon. From an Internet story on Loons: "Most Hoosiers seldom see the common loon. Only people who live near the larger bodies of water in the state have much opportunity to observe or hear this unique bird. Spring migration generally begins about the first half of March, reaches its peak in April, and tapers off in early May, with stragglers lingering until late May or longer. Fall migration in some years begins before mid-August, but the major migration period is from late October to early November. More loons are seen in April and November than in any other months, especially away from Lake Michigan.



[www.duneacresheritage.org/index.htm](http://www.duneacresheritage.org/index.htm)

Founded in 2008, the Dune Acres Heritage Association (DAHA) preserves the unique heritage of Dune Acres, Indiana while promoting pride in this great community. Funded solely by private donations, DAHA is a small independent organization operated by three (3) officers and governed by a diverse board of directors carefully chosen to enhance our mission.

Sensing the rapid pace of change taking place not only in our town but also in the State of Indiana and our Nation as a whole, DAHA grew out of its founders' belief that we must never forget the importance of a sense of place - of the role of our community - in each of our lives. To that end, DAHA's mission is quite simple:

- to identify, collect, protect, preserve and enhance the heritage of Dune Acres in the specific areas of architecture, art, culture, history and nature;
- to promote increased awareness, appreciation and understanding amongst the general public of Dune Acres' unique heritage through events, research, education and publication;
- to maintain an ever-growing collection of archival materials relevant to Dune Acres' heritage and its place in the history of our country, and provide the general public with online access to this collection through the creation and maintenance of a digital archive;
- to encourage the meaningful preservation of artifacts, structures, properties, landscapes and other town features of historical significance; and
- to create an environment of pride and appreciation for the experiences, activities and way of life, both past and present, of the people of Dune Acres.

So, no matter where you live, I encourage you to become involved. We have some great stories to share; and through their telling, we may help to forever preserve the legacies of all our great American communities, one town at a time.

*From the DAHA Website and Michael Culhane*

## Dinner on a Rainy Night

By Jane Dunne

Remembering with love my late husband Phil's herb garden in Dune Acres. Chives, joined by sprouts of oregano, thyme and sage, were "up" in the first weeks of April. The early renewal always reminded me of that old and pretty song, *Green-Up Time*. But April is renowned for throwing curves by turning a warm afternoon into a cold, gusty, rainy night in no time flat. That's when a log or two on the fire and a comforting dinner still hits the spot.

Pair the steak with a hearty Cabernet Sauvignon, maple sweet potatoes and seared greens. For dessert, console yourselves with something chocolate.

### Spicy Mustard Steak Tips (6 servings)

- 1/3 cup Dijon mustard
- 3/4 teaspoon chipotle chile powder (or regular chile powder)
- Juice of 1/2 fresh lime
- 1-1/2 teaspoons light brown sugar
- 3 lbs sirloin steak sliced into thin strips
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tbsp olive oil, or more as needed
- 1/2 bunch green onions, chopped, for garnish

Place the mustard, chile powder, lime juice and brown sugar in a small glass or ceramic bowl. Mix well and set aside. Dry the steak strips with paper towels so they will brown well. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until it is quite hot. Add one-fourth of the steak strips, being careful not to crowd them. Sauté the strips until well browned, about 2 minutes each side. Remove them to a covered dish while you continue the browning process, adding a bit more oil if needed, until all the steak has been browned. Reduce heat under skillet to medium. Add 1/4 cup water to loosen and dissolve the brown bits on the bottom of the pan. Return all the steak strips to the skillet at once, pour the mustard mixture over them and quickly toss with tongs until the steak is well coated. Divide among 6 warm plates and serve immediately.

### Maple Sweet Potatoes (6 servings)

- 4 to 5 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into large dice
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 to 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- Salt to taste

Place potatoes in a large saucepan, cover with water and bring to a boil over high heat. Boil under tender, about 20 minutes. Drain very well and then mash. Add the butter, 1 tablespoon maple syrup and salt and mix well. Add the additional maple syrup to taste.

### Seared Greens (6 servings)

If the greens aren't going to fit in one skillet, use two, dividing the ingredients. Works fine.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced



- 1 bunch mustard greens, spinach or escarole, well washed and trimmed
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Black pepper to taste

Place the oil in a large skillet over high heat. When it is almost smoking, add the garlic, greens, vinegar and sugar, stirring well after each addition. Cook until wilted, about 1 to 2 minutes, tossing the greens about with tongs. Add salt and pepper and serve immediately.

*Jane also has several other good recipes posted on her blog, The Culinarian. Check them out and leave her a comment. To access, click on [www.visitshoremagazine.com](http://www.visitshoremagazine.com); then click The Blog at the top of the home page. Archives? Click onto Jane's picture.*

## Overheard

at a recent Sure Cure... I've often been asked, 'What do you older folks do now that you're retired?' Well... I'm fortunate to have a few friends who have chemical engineering backgrounds, and one of the things we enjoy most is turning beer, wine, bourbon, and martinis into urine. And, we're pretty damn good at it too!!'

*Anonymous*

## CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

Madge Kollar's last name was misspelled in the last issue. My apologies for not catching that error.

Keith & Deanne McDowell's name was left off the DACIF 2008 donor list.

As a reminder: unless specifically requested, no names and addresses and/or phone numbers or e-mail addresses are listed in *The Beachcomber* since this newsletter is now on-line. You never know who might be looking.  
The Ed.

Due to several last minute contributions, this issue was more challenging than usual! Please bear with it. *And keep those contributions coming!*  
The Ed.

## LETTERS

### Dune Acres Flooding

*I am extremely appreciative of Mark Hull's and Rob Carstens' diligence in pumping the flood waters from the Park and pursuing answers to this new flooding problem. I commend them from their hard word.*

*I wonder, however, if it's enough. I admit to myself and publically that I hope I am wrong. That doesn't mean we should stop doing what Mark has started. But, I think we should consider doing more.*

*Weather is of all things unpredictable and cyclic. If we know that this is the end of two very wet years, then maybe we have done enough. I am still concerned that flooded streets prevent garbage pick-up, that the Plampin house is eroding away, and that multiple septic systems have been impacted. While I am not a septic expert by any means, I haven't quite come to grips with the thought of upward percolation of sewage.*

*We may not have yet seen the worst, and may be sitting in a "New Orleans north" redux. Personally, I think we need to spend the money to gain information and an expert opinion, and find a way to remove water either to the north or south. This might be by a ditch, pipe and pump, or resculpturing the land to allow flow away from our streets, homes and parks. It may be expensive. But, one more bad winter from now, we will think today's number will be cheap.*

*Alex Stemer*

### Lighting In Dune Acres

*I attended the first workshop offered by the committee working on the lighting issues at the Gatehouse. They will have another workshop soon. I hope that residents will attend and that they will educate themselves prior to the meeting by reviewing the information offered by the International Dark Sky Association at [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org). On the site under Quality Lighting, you will find "Practical Guide for Lighting to Reduce Light Pollution and Save Energy" where you can learn everything you need to know about being a responsible and considerate neighbor. The problem isn't just at the gate. There are many homes in Dune Acres creating light pollution and spewing light into their neighbors' houses. You can check to see if you are being a considerate neighbor by just going to the edge of your property to see if your*

house lights are going beyond your property lines.

Mary Ann Crayton

## Problems at the Beach

One other point that was important to me that I would hope that you would put into the newsletter. East Beach is a great place for the kids to swim and play with other kids. The platform is placed in a position where most kids can reach and enjoy. The problem that I had was with the boats that were anchored in the same area as the platform. The dripping gasoline from motors, the moving of boats with the waves, and the exposure of anchors on the lake bottom are all unacceptable. Those boats need to be anchored on a remote section of beach away from the area where kids are playing.

John Nowak

## Boating & Swimming Activities Explained

I want to respond to Mr. Nowak's letter and also as Town Beach Commissioner, give all residents some additional insights and perspective into boating activities at East Beach, the swim platform, and other elements of concern rightly noted in his letter.

First, I believe all residents of DA share the same mutual concern over the safety for our children, first and foremost. Secondly, respect for each citizen's right to enjoy the beach, boating, and any activity that our unique location provides in a way that is respectful to each individual's personal preferences is critical to all of us sharing and enjoying DA public beaches and parks.

East Beach provides primary beach and lake access for many residents who do not live directly on the beachfront. This area for DA has historically been the center of boating activities. One only has to look at some of our Town historical photos and the original master plan for establishing a marina there. Lake Michigan is a boater's paradise, and DA's unique access is a primary reason why many of us worked hard to buy houses and raise children here.

We have established guidelines for promoting boat safety. We ask that all residents register their boats not only so that we can identify lost boats but also so that we can communicate the basic rules regarding boats kept on our public beaches to them. We work

with local officials to put in a buoy line to help reinforce that there is a low-speed no-wake zone within 200 feet of the shoreline. Many of us choose to concentrate our boating at one location with the understanding that there are folks who prefer less boating traffic, and thus, we leave plenty of room along our beaches where we have less intensive boating.

The swim platform is not a Town-owned item. A while ago, a resident built the platform and soon learned that it took quite a bit more than expected to manage such an item in Lake Michigan waters that can change from dead calm to very wavy in a very short period of time. The platform is heavy and requires teamwork and often horsepower to pull safely from the waters. A few residents decided to take it over and manage it as a consortium of families who all enjoy using it. That is still the case. It requires maintenance and it requires ensuring that it is anchored securely and taken out of the waters safely when high waves would cause a safety issue and even threaten its existence. While it is a group that manages it, we still enjoy having anyone in Town take the opportunity to enjoy it. It affords both a fun place to swim from but also a nice place to picnic when on shore. Most of the families who help manage the swim platform are boaters as well. And we do at times anchor our boats near the platform, but we are very conscious of people swimming and kids in the water.

Our boats do not normally leak gasoline and oil. If they do, then there is something wrong, and we would be first to fix it, as it would be potentially unsafe situation and risk the engine. If someone sees a boat leaking gasoline and oil they should bring it to my attention or call security immediately. There may be times when there is an odor of gasoline and oil around a boat, as there is around any motorized vehicle, but leaking is another matter and is both dangerous and environmentally an issue as well.

Here are some quick additional points for consideration:

1. The Town of Dune Acres ultimately does not govern any of the waters in front of our beaches.
2. Our beachfront and adjacent waters can be complex in terms of both who ultimately has jurisdiction and sometimes co-jurisdiction within established boundary areas and who maintains enforcement over rules that are both defined at the



state level and the federal level.  
That alone may be a subject for a  
future article.

3. *We as residents should both welcome the involvement of enforcement agencies and Parks representatives and work cooperatively with them, but at the same time, not forfeit or allow their responsibilities to infringe on our basic rights to access Lake Michigan from Dune Acres' beaches for any water activity.*
4. *Lake Michigan is a dangerous place. One only has to acknowledge some of the tragic drownings that have occurred close by. Whether it is high waves, strong under-tows, or occasional high e-coli levels or boaters sharing the same space with swimmers, it's important that everyone recognize that ultimately when one enters Lake Michigan for any activity one enters at his or her own risk....our signs say that; our laws back that up.*
5. *Yes, we, as families who take the time and spend the money to manage the swim platform, invite anyone to enjoy it. BUT know again per the previous point, that you are absolutely at your own risk.*

*Finally, I welcome anyone with concerns about anything at the beach to give me a call. There are residents who also prefer to remain anonymous within the community. If that's your choice and you still have a concern, perhaps you can voice issues with security and ask that it remain confidential. We all want to enjoy the beach but to do so in a manner that respects each individual's rights to the beach and waters of Dune Acres.*

*Rob Carstens*



## OP-ED

### Your Federal Government at Work

If you're not already aware, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IDNL) is going to have a deer cull. Even if you agree with deer culls, you should still voice your opinion about the cost. For 2008, the Dune Acres deer cull cost was \$8.60/deer (source: Ray Tittle, Deer Cull Committee). The Federal Government has estimated their cost to the taxpayer will be on average \$460.71/deer (\$988,325 - \$1,190,825 over a 15-year period or \$417.90 to \$503.52/deer to cull. (Source: IDNL, White-tailed Deer Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, pps 52 - 63). You, the taxpayer, will be paying 46 times the DA cost for the Federal Government to manage a deer cull. Incidentally, if the IDNL does *nothing*, it's still going to cost you, the taxpayer, \$350,835! (Source: Id. pps 39 - 43). But, the solution the IDNL is recommending skyrockets the cost to \$2,631,130 to \$2,877,931 over a 15-year period (Source: Id. pps 63 - 66). Aren't you glad that government is burgeoning?!

If you wish to comment on the deer cull -- any aspect of it -- you may do so until April 24, 2009 by going to

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/indu>

The Ed.

### DA Property Taxes!

You, of course, have your property tax bills now. In almost all cases, property taxes went up for every house in Dune Acres. Several folks are screaming about their new tax bite. Yet, I hear almost no one asking *why* the taxes are going up so much. There is only one answer: to support underlying and increasing government bloat, waste and inefficiency. Folks, the assessor isn't the problem! Go to the source of the problem and tell your representatives that enough is enough. The taxpayer can be bled only so much until the goose that lays the golden eggs is dead. As government "services" are on track to grow at an unprecedented rate, you should expect nothing less than to be paying higher taxes and fees across the board. Fasten your seat belts and open your wallets!

The Ed.

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

- Margaret Thatcher

## DATES FOR YOUR DA CALENDAR

### Monthly Public Meetings (you're welcomed *and* encouraged to attend)

2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	Plan Commission	Town Hall	7:30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	Town Council	Town Hall	7:30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Aging in Place	Town Hall	1:00pm

April 3	Fri	Last Sure Cure for the season, Clubhouse, 7:30 - 11pm (See P 5)
April 5	Sun	Relay For Life Meeting, 3pm at the Norris' (See P 4)
April 11	Sat	Easter Egg Hunt, Clubhouse, 11am (See P 5)
April 15	Wed	Taxed Enough Already (TEA) Party, Valpo Courthouse Square, 4pm (See P 4)
April 18	Sat	Environmental Workshop, Town Hall, 10am (see Pps 6 - 7) Earth Day, Sunset Hill Farm, Valpo, 10am - 3pm (See P 7)
April 25	Sat	Town Clean Up, Town Hall, 9am - noon (See Pps 2 and 6)
May 15 - 16	Fri - Sat	National Park Service BioBlitz (See P 8)
May 16	Sat	Recycle: Household Hazardous Waste, Tires and Appliances (See P 7)
May 29	Fri	Tentative deadline for Summer <i>Beachcomber</i> (to publish ~June 4)
May 30	Sat	DA Spring Party, Clubhouse, 5:30 - 7:30pm (See P 5)

*If you would like your event listed, just let me know. The Ed.*

## PARTING THOUGHT...



### U.S. Wildlife Impacted by Politics

The photo captures an unsettling trend that is beginning to affect the behavior of wildlife in the U.S. Animals that were formerly self-sufficient are modifying their behavior to take advantage of what they expect to be a new set of societal norms in the next four to eight years. This black bear has ceased hunting and, instead, has begun to merely sit outside a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office, waiting to be fed, and to have his winter den dug for him by government employees.

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**The Fine Print:** *The Beachcomber* is published seasonally about mid January, late March, early June and September. Or so. Occasionally more often. The current issue may be -- and *should* be -- viewed on-line at [www.duneacres.org](http://www.duneacres.org) for full color and clarity. All information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, Letters to the Editor, art work, comments and otherwise are welcomed and encouraged. *The Beachcomber* is not an official publication of the Town of Dune Acres or the DACIF, Inc. All content is believed to be reasonably accurate and reliable but not "guaranteed!" I may be reached by land line phone: at home 787-9210 or at work 219-852-3200 x304; FAX: 219-931-6487; e-mailed: [bevans@horizonpublishing.com](mailto:bevans@horizonpublishing.com) I don't use no stinkin' cell phone! If e-mailing me, please use the word, "**Beachcomber**," in the subject line. Thanks. Bob Evans 4/2/09